

STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 44

Largest Stimulus Project in Tennessee Causing Job Loss

- A local Tennessee construction company was awarded \$38.6 million in Stimulus funds to widen Highway 66 in Sevier County, Tennessee, last summer. Due to a barrage of concrete barricades and piles of rubble, store entrances and signs along the highway have been blocked or made difficult to see. As a result, the four mile construction project—the largest of its kind in Tennessee—has forced local businesses to lay off workers and cut back hours.
- Zach Wade, owner of the Clarion Inn off Highway 66, was forced to fire his entire sales team and general manager due to decreased revenues caused by the project. According to Wade, "What's really infuriating to me is the fact that they've got all these pylons and construction barrels all along the road and they haven't done much... they couldn't have picked a worse time for our business."
- Rich Arnold, owner of Jersey Mike's Subs, has seen a revenue loss of 55% and expressed his frustration with the Stimulus funding saying, "What is the stimulus money for? To stimulate, to get people to spend money. So what is the stimulus money doing?"
- To date, this, the largest Stimulus project in the state, has only created one on-site job. Meanwhile, Tennessee's unemployment rate is currently 10.6%.
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, \$38.6 million in taxpayer funds would not be spent to force owners to lay off their workers. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- **Source:** <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2010/may/11/economic-stimulus-turns-into-hindrance/?print=1>

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip's website:
<http://republicanwhip.house.gov/blog/wwindex.html>

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus.